

COUNTRY DATA: IRAN : Information from the CIA World Factbook

## INTRODUCTION

Known as Persia until 1935, Iran became an Islamic republic in 1979 after the ruling monarchy was overthrown and Shah Mohammad Reza PAHLAVI was forced into exile. Conservative clerical forces established a theocratic system of government with ultimate political authority vested in a learned religious scholar referred to commonly as the Supreme Leader who, according to the constitution, is accountable only to the Assembly of Experts - a popularly elected 86-member body of clerics. US-Iranian relations have been strained since a group of Iranian students seized the US Embassy in Tehran on 4 November 1979 and held it until 20 January 1981. During 1980-88, Iran fought a bloody, indecisive war with Iraq that eventually expanded into the Persian Gulf and led to clashes between US Navy and Iranian military forces between 1987 and 1988. Iran has been designated a state sponsor of terrorism for its activities in Lebanon and elsewhere in the world and remains subject to US, UN, and EU economic sanctions and export controls because of its continued involvement in terrorism and its nuclear weapons ambitions. Following the election of reformer Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad KHATAMI as president in 1997 and a reformist Majles (legislature) in 2000, a campaign to foster political reform in response to popular dissatisfaction was initiated. The movement floundered as conservative politicians, through the control of unelected institutions, prevented reform measures from being enacted and increased repressive measures. Starting with nationwide municipal elections in 2003 and continuing through Majles elections in 2004, conservatives reestablished control over Iran's elected government institutions, which culminated with the August 2005 inauguration of hardliner Mahmud AHMADI-NEJAD as president. His controversial reelection in June 2009 sparked nationwide protests over allegations of electoral fraud. The UN Security Council has passed a number of resolutions (1696 in July 2006, 1737 in December 2006, 1747 in March 2007, 1803 in March 2008, and 1835 in September 2008) calling for Iran to suspend its uranium enrichment and reprocessing activities and comply with its IAEA obligations and responsibilities. Resolutions 1737, 1477, and 1803 subject a number of Iranian individuals and entities involved in Iran's nuclear and ballistic missile programs to sanctions. Additionally, several Iranian entities are subject to US sanctions under Executive Order 13382 designations for proliferation activities and EO 13224 designations for support of terrorism.

## GEOGRAPHY

Location	Middle east, bordering the Gulf of Oman, the Persian Gulf, and the Caspian Sea, between Iraq and Pakistan
Area	total: 1,648,195 sq km Land: 1,531,595 sq km Water: 116,600 sq km

<b>Climate</b>	mostly arid and semiarid, subtropical along Caspian coast
<b>Natural Resources</b>	Petroleum, natural gas, coal, chromium, copper, iron ore, lead, manganese, zinc, sulfur
<b>Total Renewable Water Resources</b>	137.5 cu km (1997)
<b>Freshwater Withdrawal</b>	total: 72.88 cu km/yr Per capita: 1,048 cu m/yr
<b>Natural Hazards</b>	periodic droughts, floods; dust storms, sandstorms; earthquakes
<b>Environmental Issues</b>	air pollution, especially in urban areas, from vehicle emissions, refinery operations and industrial effluents; deforestation; overgrazing; desertification; oil pollution in the Persian Gulf; wetland losses from drought; soil degradation (salination); inadequate supplies of potable water; water pollution from raw sewage and industrial waste; urbanization
<b>PEOPLE</b>	
<b>Population</b>	77,891,220 (July 2010 est.)
<b>Ethnic Groups</b>	Persian 51%, Azer 24%, Gilaki and Mazandarani 8%, Kurd 7%, Arab 3%, Lur 2%, Baloch 2%, Turkmen 2%, other 1%
<b>Religions</b>	Muslim 98% (Shia 89%, Sunni 9%), other (includes Zoroastrian, Jewish, Christian, and Baha'i) 2%
<b>Languages</b>	Persian and Persian dialects 58%, Turkic and Turkic dialects 26%, Kurdish 9%, Luri 2%, Balochi 1%, Arabic 1%, Turkish 1%, other 2%
<b>Literacy Rate</b>	total population: 77% Male: 83.5% Female: 70.4% (2002 est.)
<b>Major Infectious Diseases</b>	
<b>GOVERNMENT</b>	
<b>Type</b>	theocratic republic
<b>Independence</b>	1 April 1979 (Islamic Republic of Iran proclaimed)
<b>Constitution</b>	2-3 December 1979, revised in 1989
<b>Legal System</b>	based on sharia law system; has not accepted compulsory ICJ jurisdiction
<b>ECONOMY</b>	
<b>Agricultural Products</b>	wheat, rice, other grains, sugar beets, sugar cane, fruits, nuts, cotton; dairy products, wool; caviar

<b>Industries</b>	petroleum, petrochemicals, fertilizers, caustic soda, textiles, cement and other construction materials, food processing, ferrous and non-ferrous metal fabrication, armaments
<b>Import commodities</b>	industrial supplies, capital goods, foodstuffs and other consumer goods, technical services
<b>Import Partners</b>	UAE 15.14%, China 13.48%, Germany 9.66%, South Korea 7.16%, Italy 5.27%, Russia 4.81%, India 4.12% (2009)
<b>Export Commodities</b>	Petroleum 80%, chemical and petrochemical products, fruits and nuts, carpets
<b>Export Partners</b>	China 16.58%, Japan 11.9%, India 10.54%, South Korea 7.54%, Turkey 4.36% (2009)
<b>Per Capita GDP</b>	\$863.5 billion (2010 est.) \$838.3 billion (2009 est.) \$825.9 billion (2008 est.)
<b>Population below poverty line</b>	18% (2007 est.)

\*CITATIONS: All information included above is extracted from the CIA World Factbook except where noted.

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General	
Life Expectancy at Birth (in years)	71.9
Average number of years in School (in years)	14.0
Gross National Income Per Capita (In US Dollars)	11,764
Gender Inequality	
Female Seats in Parliament (%)	2.8
Population with at least a Secondary Education Female (% Of 25 and older)	39.0
Population with at least a Secondary Education Male (% Of 25 and older)	57.2
Labor Force Participation Female (%)	32.5
Labor Force Participation Male (%)	73.1
Births Attended by Skilled Health Professionals (%)	97
Poverty	
Population surviving on \$1.25 per day (%)	<2
Empowerment	
Number of Journalists Imprisoned	23
Corruption Victims (% of people who face a bribe situation in the last year)	19
Political Engagement (% percent of people who voiced opinion to public officials)	19

## Sustainability

Fossil Fuels as Primary Energy Source (%)	99
Renewable Resources as Primary Energy Source (%)	1
Population without Access to Water (%)	..
Population Without Access to Sanitation Services (%)	..
Population affected by natural disasters (% between 2000-2009)	58,770

## Human Security

Number of Refugees leaving this country	69.1
Number of Internally Displaced People in This Country	..
Prevalence of Undernourishment (%)	<5

## Demographics

Urban Residents (% of total Population)	70.8
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## Health

HIV Prevalence in Female Youth (% ages 15-24)	0.1
HIV Prevalence in Male Youth (% ages 15-24)	0.2
HIV Prevalence in Adults (% ages 15-49)	0.2

## Other

Official Development Assistance Per Capita (in US dollars)	1.4
Population without Electricity (%)	1.6

